

Levering of Massachusetts, for a commission of six Senators, six Representatives, and six citizens selected by the President. Mr. Fowler had proposed a commission of eleven Senators, eleven Representatives, and twenty-one citizens representing" different interests and different sections, as in the case of the commissions which reorganized the monetary systems of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Japan. When the bill emerged from conference committee, however, all provision for private citizens was eliminated and the commission was to consist of nine Senators and nine members of the House. In this form the provision became law, and Senator Aldrich and Mr. Vreeland were promptly appointed leading members of the commission on the part of the two houses. The commission met in July and authorized the investigation of European banking systems by a subcommittee, which sailed from New York on August 4, 1908. One of the defects of the bond-secured note system was brought into striking relief by the events which followed the panic of 1907. The redundancy of the stock of currency, which usually follows the relaxation of business activity, caused the excess which consisted of national bank-notes to be sent rapidly to the Treasury for redemption. The amount received for the fiscal year ending June 30th, which was \$240,250,788 for 1907, increased for 1908 to \$349,661,144, of which by far the greater part was received during the second half of the year. The amount thus received in May, 1908, was \$43,009,910; in June, \$46,162,429; and in July, \$38,211,942. These notes when received for redemption were carried in the Treasury cash until such time as they could be sorted for delivery to the banks and lawful money collected in exchange for them. The result of the heavy influx of notes during the spring and summer was to overstrain the clerical facilities of the Treasury for handling them, and the amount carried in the cash reached on June 30, 1908, a figure as high, as \$65,445,604 out of a total cash fund of \$189,161,389, and on July 25th, \$67,414,248. Obviously a form of paper currency which had become redundant in general circulation, and which the banks were seeking to exchange as rapidly as